

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 /017 W
----- 102382

O R 301312Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3248
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MOSCOW 6769

FOR STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV; LENINGRAD FOR P&C; USIA FOR IEU, ICS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, US, (KOVELEV, YURI)

SUBJ: BFS BICENTENNIAL PROJECT

REF: A) LENINGRAD 0448, B) MOSCOW 5948

1. REF (A) INDICATED KOVELEV HAD RECEIVED APPROVAL TO ACCEPT BFS
INVITATION.
ON THIS BASIS, POST PROCEEDED WITH TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEPARTURE
MAY 2 (REF B.)

2. KOVELEV INDICATED TO CONGEN P&C OFFICIER APRIL 28 THAT HE HAD NOT
YET RECEIVED
EXTERNAL TRAVEL PASSPORT, AND AS OF MORNING OF APRIL 30
NEITHER EMB
NOR CON GEN HAD RECEIVED VISA APPLICATION.

3. EMBOFF THEN CONTACTED MHE REP (SEMYONOV) WITH WHOM THERE HAD BEEN
PREVIOUS CONTACT RE KOVELOV INVITATION. SEMYONOV INDICATED KOVELEV
COULDN'T
GO TO US FOR CONFERENCE. UDER QUESTIONING, SEMYONOV INDICATED "HE
COULDN'T SAY WHY" KOVELEV NOT ABLE TO TRAVEL.

4. AFTER CHECKING EMB RECORDS, EMBOFF AGAIN CALLED SEM-
YONOV TO EXPLAIN THAT KOVELEV HAD INDICATED MARCH 19 TO LENINGRAD
P&C OFFICER THAT HE HAD PERMISSION, CONFIRMED APRIL 28, TO
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ATTEND AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE ON THAT BASIS SINCE

NO INFORMATION TO CONTRARY HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM MHE, IN SPITE OF FREQUENT, REPEATED REQUESTS FOR OFFICIAL RESPONSE. EMBOFF INDICATED KOVELEV'S ABSENCE FROM CONFERENCE WOULD CERTAINLY BE NOTED AND THAT FACT HE WOULD NOT BE PRESENT TO GIVE EXPECTED REPORT WOULD CAUSE DIFFICULTIES AT CONFERENCE.

5. SEMYONOV THEN RESPONDED THAT MHE "HAD BEEN TOLD THAT KOVELEV COULD NOT GO." EMBOFF ASKED IF THIS INFO CAME FROM LENINGRAD UNIVERSITY. SEMYONOV RESPONDED THAT KOVELEV HIMSELF HAD SAID HE COULDN'T GO. EMBOFF ASKED IF HE COULD GO TO US A FEW DAYS LATE FOR CONFERENCE AND WAS TOLD NEGATIVE ANSWER WAS FINAL ONE.

6. COMMENT: WE SMELL A RAT AND MUST ASSUME IT IS MHE RATHER THAN KOVELEV WHICH IS NOT LEVELING WITH US ABOUT SITUATION, BASED ON WHAT HE HAS TOLD LENINGRAD P&C OFFICER. EMB WILL MAKE STRONG PRESENTATION TO BAZHANOV AND SEMYONOV IN NEAR FUTURE THAT EMB EXPECTS MHE TO RESPOND MORE FULLY AND QUICKLY TO CORRESPONDENCE, QUERIES ON MATTERS SUCH AS KOVELOV AFFAIR. END COMMENT

7. REQUEST DEPT INFORM PROJECT DIRECTOR WINSTON E. FORREST (TEL 202-872-9069) SOONEST THAT KOVELEV NOT COMING. STOESEL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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